

Serial No. 10/796,681
Art Unit: 1773

Remarks

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. The Patent Office has required Applicants to restrict this application to one of the following groups, pursuant to 35 USC §121.

- Group I. Claims 1-7 and 28, drawn to a coating composition, classified in class 524, subclass, 558.
- Group II. Claims 8-22 and 29 drawn to a method of making a coated metal, classified in class 427, subclass 487+.
- Group III. Claims 23-27 and 30, drawn to a coated metal, classified in class 428, subclass 457+.

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that only one invention has been made. The invention is a coating composition, the coating of a metal substrate with the composition and the combination of the metal substrate with the coating composition that has been cross-linked.

The Patent Office makes the restriction requirement on the basis that the composition of Group I can be utilized for coating other substrates, such as plastic. In making this allegation, the Patent Office has not presented any reference which discloses such a use. Likewise, the Patent Office's allegation that the "intermediate product" could be used to make free-standing films is not supported by any reference which discloses such a use. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the requirement to restrict be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Patent Office indicates that the three Groups are classified in different classes. Applicants submit that the classification system was developed to provide ease of searching and not to determine whether more than one invention has been made. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested.

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As required by the Patent Office, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute "Invention I", as recited in the Official Action. Specifically, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute claims 1-7 and 28, drawn to a coating composition.

Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration in view of the remarks contained herein. Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned

Respectfully submitted,


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